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brass, which, from its great resemblance to gold in colour, they denominated orichalch, or orichalcum. Some say this alloy, which had copper for its basis, was made by throwing cadmium or calamine on the copper which absorbed it. Others suppose there was an original natural ore of orichalcum. Be this as it may, it is certain that the Greeks, too, were acquainted with a metallic substance called orichalcum, even before Rome was founded. When Julius Cæsar plundered the capitol of a large quantity of gold, he replaced it with orichalcum, to deceive the people; and Vitellius resorted to a similar expedient when he despoiled the temples of their ornaments.

“ In whatever manner the golden hue was originally given to the Dowris alloy, there is little doubt but that the colour on the exterior of the bronzes has been mellowed by their having long lain buried in the ground. Time and the effect of the soil have produced a varnish defying modern imitation.”

JANUARY 14TH, 1850.

REV. HUMPHREY LLOYD, D. D., PRESIDENT,
in the Chair.

CHARLES GEORGE FAIRFIELD, Esq.; Chichester Samuel Fortescue, Esq., M. P.; Charles Fox, Esq.; Alexander Gordon Melville, M. D.; Christopher Moore, Esq.; and Wellington A. Purdon, Esq.; were elected Members of the Academy.

The Secretary, for James Westby, Esq., of High Park, exhibited an ancient model in wood, of a sword, found at Ballykillmurry, county Wicklow, and communicated the following notice of its discovery, drawn up by that gentleman.

The following is the statement of John Keough, of Ballykillmurry, county Wicklow, in the employment of William Jones Westby, Esq., of High Park :

“About eight years past I and my son were cutting turf on Ballykillmurry bog ; about five perches from the dry ground in the bog, and five feet from the surface, and about five more from the gravel, we found the accompanying sword. The bog had never been cut before ; at least it had all the appearance of being in its original state. About eight yards from the sword, and three feet deep, we found a vessel of wood, filled with what we considered suet ; it was in a perfectly mouldy state, as also the vessel, which fell to pieces when we took it up. The suet, to the best of my opinion, had never been rendered or boiled. The vessel was about the size of a small cool, made of staves, and had two iron hoops on it.”

The Secretary read a letter from Richard Caulfield, Esq., of Cork, containing an account of the discovery of a chamber in Killeens Fort, situated two miles north of Cork.

“Sunday’s Well, Cork, Jan. 12, 1850.

“REV. DEAR SIR,—During one of my late explorations I happened to meet with an ancient stone head amid the rubbish of the south wall of Cloghphillip Castle, which fell down about a year and a half since, not, I am sure, without some cause, for this is not the only wall of a castle that has come under my notice, endangered by persons digging for gold ; which, when they dream of (as they say), nothing will prevent them from examining the favoured spot, and often undermining the wall.

“Cloghphillip Castle (it is marked on the map of Muskrye in the Pac. Hib.) stands on a very high eminence about one mile N. W. of Blarney Castle in this county, and commanding